

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated September 27, 2004. Claims 1-11 pending in the patent application. Claims 1, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended. New claims 12-21 have been added to the application. No new matter have been added by the amendments made herein. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants respectfully submit, at least for the reasons set forth below, that the rejections have been overcome or are improper. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the patentability of Claims 1-11 and further submit that new claims 12-21 are patentable in view of the cited art.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as been anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,480,885 to Olivier ("*Olivier*"). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse this rejection because *Olivier* does not disclose all the elements of Claim 1-11.

Olivier is directed to a method for dynamically matching users for group communications based on a threshold degree of matching of a sender and recipient based on predetermined acceptance criteria. One or more users establish subscriptions to an electronic mailing list by specifying user profiled data and acceptance criteria data to screen other users. (See the Abstract). When the user subscribes to the electronic mailing list, a web server establishes and stores an individualized recipient list including each matching subscriber and the degree of one way or mutual match with that user. An email server retrieves all of the matches the user sends a message to the mailing list and then optionally filters the recipient list. The filtered list is a message distribution list using each recipients message criteria. The message is then distributed to each matching user.

Claim 1 among other things calls for a "first generation means for generating a first set of information corresponding to a virtual space capable of being utilized by said plurality of users using said other information processing apparatuses," and a "second generation means for generating a second set of information including an information listing showing said community a first user participates in from information relating to such plurality of users." Claim 1 also includes, in part, "a display which displays at least said information list" which shows the community a first user participates in. *Olivier* fails to disclose or suggest at least these elements of Claim 1.

In the Office Action, the Patent Office states that Figs. 5A and 5B of *Olivier* describes the first generation means and second generation means of Claim 1. Specifically, the Patent Office states that first generation means is disclosed by the steps 444-447 of Fig. 5A and a second generation means is described or disclosed by the steps 474-479 of Fig. 5B. Applicants respectfully disagrees with the Patent Office.

The first generation device described in Claim 1 generates a first set of information corresponding to a virtual space capable of being utilized by the plurality of users using other information processing apparatuses. Steps 444-447 of *Olivier* are directed to collecting profiled data from a user, enabling the user to select a mailing list to subscribe to, generating a subscription form including acceptance criteria to collect from the user, and enables the user to specify the acceptance criteria. The steps relate to a mailing list that is displayed or contained in two dimensional space. The mailing list does not include information relating to a virtual space or three dimensional space used by a plurality of users as in the claimed invention.

The Patent Office also states that *Olivier* teaches a virtual space. (See the Office Action, p. 3). The Patent Office states that the above identified application describes the virtual space as “email space, chat room, online rendezvous, etc. (3:23-59).” (See the Office Action, p. 3). Applicants respectfully submit however that *Olivier* does not disclose, teach or suggest employing a virtual world or virtual environment. Specifically, *Olivier* states that the method can be applied to other group forums “such as web-based discussion boards, chat, online clubs, Usenet news groups, voicemail, instant messaging, web browsing side channel communities, and online gaming rendezvous.” (Col. 3, lines 27-32). These areas are at best two dimensional spaces or areas. Therefore, *Olivier* does not disclose or suggest a three dimensional virtual environment as in the claimed invention.

Olivier also does not disclose or suggest the second generation device of Claim 1. The second generation device of Claim 1 generates a second set of information including an information list showing the community a first user participates in. This information is displayed on a display. The Patent Office states that Column 5, lines 27-32 of *Olivier* describe the second generation means. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Patent Office.

Block 212 of Fig. 2 of *Olivier* includes the steps of calculating the degree of matches between the user and every other user doing a one way or two way between the users within the user profiled data and acceptance criteria data. (Col. 5, lines 27-32). The results are stored in a data base. The stored results are later used to determine which mailing list of the subscribers within the list subscriber base should receive an email address from a known user. (Col. 5, lines 33-46). Block 212 does not describe generating a second set of information including an information list showing a community or communities a first user participates in, such a community in a virtual world. Therefore, *Olivier* does not disclose or suggest the second generation device of Claim 1.

Moreover, *Olivier* does not disclose or suggest a display which displays at least the information list informing the community of a first user participates in as in Claim 1. Therefore, *Olivier* does not disclose or suggest the display of Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, *Olivier* does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 and Claims 2-8, which depend from Claim 1, are each patentably distinguished over *Olivier* and are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 9, 10 and 11 include certain similar elements to Claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above for Claim 1, Claims 9, 10 and 11 are each patentably distinguished over *Olivier* and are in condition for allowance.


New Claims 12-21 also include certain similar elements to independent Claims 1, 9, 10, and 11. Additionally, the claims include a display screen which displays at least a portion of the virtual world the information list. A first user uses the input controller to move the image of the specific community from the information list to a second user to transfer registration information regarding the first user to the second user without having to re-type the registration information each time the first user desires to register for another virtual community. Therefore, new Claims 12-21 are each patentably distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance.

In light of above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-11 and new Claims 12-21 are patentable over the art of record because *Olivier* does disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request

that Claims 1-21 be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

No fees are due in this case. If any other fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (112857-283) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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